Humanities & Religious Studies 119-01  Dr. Jeffrey Brodd. Email: jbrodd@csus.edu
Mendocino 2009  Office: Mendocino 204. 278-7703. Office hours:
Monday/Wednesday 3:00-4:15  MW 11:30-12:30, T 3:00–4:00, and by appointment

Catalog Description: Study of Greek and Roman myths and hero tales and their place in the arts and literature of Western civilization. Also provides an introduction to the general nature and function of myth.

We read extensively from primary sources, including Homer’s Iliad and Odyssey, Hesiod’s Theogony and Works and Days, selected plays of Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides, Virgil’s Aeneid, and Ovid’s Metamorphoses, along with scholarly analysis. Readings and lectures will be supplemented with consideration of art and archaeological sites relating to the myths. This course fulfills G.E. Area C2.

Course Learning Objectives

Students who successfully complete HRS 119 will be able to:
• Describe in detail the subject matter of many Greek and Roman myths.
• Apply scholarly means of analyzing myth and its relevance for the individual and society.
• Explain the historical context of classical mythology and the place of myth in ancient religious culture.
• Identify and analyze the interrelationship of literary and artistic depictions of Greek and Roman myths.
• Demonstrate analytical reading skills, the ability simultaneously to extract and construct meaning when reading diverse works relating to classical mythology.
• Demonstrate written communication skills, through using appropriate structure, development, usage, and reference sources to write clear, purposeful, analytical prose.
• Demonstrate critical thinking skills, through comprehensive exploration of issues, ideas, artifacts, and events before accepting or formulating an opinion or conclusion.

Texts

Required: Stephen L. Harris and Gloria Platzner, Classical Mythology: Images and Insights, Sixth edition

Standard reference works (not required for course)


SacCT and Turnitin

Our course SacCT site will provide access to the syllabus, instructions on papers and other handouts, and grades. Papers are to be submitted via Turnitin (instructions will be provided).
Requirements and Grading

In order to derive the most from complex (but enjoyable) subject matter like classical mythology, it is essential that students actively engage with readings and lecture presentations. All readings are to be completed by the class session for which they are scheduled; vocal participation in class is encouraged. Formal requirements consist of the following:

- Three quizzes (40%; the lowest score will count 10%, the two highest scores 15% each)
- Two essays (approximately 4 pages each) (30%)
- Final exam (30%)

The quizzes and the final are part “objective” (e.g. multiple choice) and part “short answer” (topical questions designed to be answered in a paragraph or two). Sound preparation will require careful attention to both lecture material and readings, with special focus on primary texts and bold-faced terms.

Grades for assignments and for the course will be based on the following (e.g., 92% and above is an A):
- A 92, A- 88, B+ 84, B 78, B- 74, C+ 70, C 64, C- 60, D+ 56, D 50, D- 46, F below 46

Late essays will be accepted within two days of the due date only, with reduction of one full letter grade. Quizzes and the final exam must be taken at their scheduled times. Attendance is required—a student’s course grade may be reduced because of an excessive number of unexcused absences. Consult with the instructor if ever there is a need to miss class. Use in class of electronic devices (for access to assigned texts and to materials on SacCT) must be approved by the instructor; texting and Internet browsing are prohibited. Compliance with rules prohibiting cheating and plagiarism along with principles of courteous conduct are required (i.e., no ‘chatting’ during class, no leaving class without prior permission, no walking in front of the instructor if ever one needs to arrive late) For the University’s policy on plagiarism, see: http://library.csus.edu/content2.asp?pageID=353.

Note: If you have a disability and require accommodations, you need to provide disability documentation to SSWD, Lassen Hall 1008; 278-6955. Please discuss your accommodation needs with the instructor after class or during office hours early in the semester.

Schedule and Assignments
(All readings from Harris and Platzner, Classical Mythology; readings are to be completed in advance of the session with which they are listed—e.g., Chs. 1 and 2 by class time on 9/2)

Introduction to Classical Mythology
Mon 8/31 “Myth.”
Wed 9/2 Background of classical mythology. Approaches to the study of myth. Chs. 1 and 2

The Cosmos and the Divine Realm
(Monday 9/7 is Labor Day; campus closed)
Wed 9/9 Hesiod’s Theogony. Ch. 3
Mon 9/14 Goddess worship. Ch. 5
Wed 9/16 The Olympian pantheon. Ch. 6
Mon 9/21 Quiz (Chs. 1-3, 5, 6)
Wed 9/23 Apollo and Dionysus. Chs. 7 and 8
Mon 9/28 Dionysus (cont.). Ch. 14, pp. 517-582 (Euripides’ Bacchae)

The Human Condition
Wed 9/30 Prometheus and the divine/human rift. Ch. 4
Mon 10/5 The afterlife. The hero. Chs. 9 and 10
Wed 10/7   Heroines. Ch. 11
Mon 10/12  Quiz (chs. 7, 8, 14 [pp. 517-582], 4, 9-11)

**The Homeric Epics**
Wed 10/14  Homer and the epic. Introduction to the *Iliad*. Ch. 12, pp. 331-369 (to Book 2). **First essay assigned**
Mon 10/19  Homer’s *Iliad* (cont.). Ch. 12, pp. 369-399 (to Books 20 and 21)
Wed 10/21  Homer’s *Iliad* (cont.). Ch. 12, pp. 399-423
Mon 10/26  Introduction to the *Odyssey*. Ch. 13, pp. 424-453 (to Books 2-4)
Wed 10/28  Homer’s *Odyssey* (cont.). Ch. 13, pp. 453-464 (to Book 12). **First essay due**
Mon 11/2   Homer’s *Odyssey* (cont.). Ch. 13, pp. 464-502

**Mythology in Tragic Drama**
Wed 11/4   Quiz (chs. 12, 13). Introduction to Greek drama. Ch. 14, pp. 505-517 and 581-582
Mon 11/9   The House of Atreus and the *Oresteia*. Ch. 15, pp. 583-592 (to The *Libation-Bearers*) and 601-632 (*Agamemnon*)
(Wednesday 11/11 is Veterans Day; campus closed)
Mon 11/16  The *Oresteia* (cont.). Ch. 15, pp. 592-600 and 633-658
Wed 11/18  Sophocles’ *Oedipus Rex*. Ch. 16, pp. 659-672 (to *Antigone*) and 679-727
Mon 11/23  Sophocles’ *Antigone*. Ch. 16, pp. 672-678 and 728-765
Wed 11/25  Euripides’ *Medea*. Ch. 17. **Second essay assigned**

**Roman Mythology**
Mon 11/30  The Roman world. Ch. 18 and Ch. 19, pp. 857-876 (*Aeneid* Book 1)
Wed 12/2   Virgil’s *Aeneid*. Ch. 19, pp. 840-856 and 876-923
Mon 12/7   Ovid’s *Metamorphoses*. Ch. 20

**The Legacy of Classical Mythology**
Wed 12/9   Mythology in literature and the arts. Ch. 21. **Second essay due**

**Final Exam:** Monday 12/14, 3:00-5:00 p.m.